

AMERICAN ATHLETES ON TIPTOE FOR OLYMPIC GAMES

The Very Finest Examples of Uncle Sam's Young Manhood Will be Competitors in the Old Greek Contests; Every Section of the Union Will be Represented—By Walter F. Dunn

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Earl Eby, a product of Chicago public schools, will wear the University of Pennsylvania colors in the 800-meter event, predicted by many to be the classic of the 1920 games.

specimens of Greek manhood, such as the types as lauded the chisels of Phidias and Praxiteles.

The plain of Olympia, as described in the pages of the National Review, of London, was hallowed ground, dedicated to Zeus.

On its northern side was the Altis or sanctum. In it were the temples of Zeus and of Hera and altars to Demeter and Aphrodite, and it was adorned, to say the least, as time went on with the most exquisite

south, under pain of being thrown from the Tyecean rock, though a single exception to this law was made in favor of the priestess of Demeter, who sat at an altar of white marble during the festival. One daring woman, it is true, made an exception for herself, but when her sex was discovered, she was pardoned on the ground that her father, her brothers and her son had all been victors in the games.

The candidate, having proved that he was a freeman of pure Hellenic blood, was required also to furnish proof that he had trained for the contests during ten months, to swear before the statue of Zeus that he would be guilty of no crime in connection with the contests and finally to attend for thirty days certain prescribed exercises under the judges, who enforced the laws of the contests, determined the winners, presented the prizes and presided over the ceremony, sitting in purple robes in special seats.

THE competitors, after having their names and countries proclaimed by heralds, took up their places by lot, were exhorted to acquit themselves nobly and the winner was crowned on a table of gold with the garland of wild olive cut by a boy with a golden sickle from the sacred grove near the altar of Aphrodite. The great gathering, which lasted some four or five days at the period of highest development, was concluded by a religious ceremony, in which the deputies, representing the various states, made sacrifices to Zeus.

As might be expected in an institution which had a continuous existence of nearly

have dumfounded the world's officials had they leaped to a distance of twenty-five feet. Therefore it is the belief that Croton's long-standing record must have been made in the form of the present-day hop, skip and jump, for which Dan Ahern holds a record of fifty feet eleven inches, made at Celtic Park, New York, in 1911.

Boxing and horse racing were added to the twenty-third Olympiad: chariot racing with four full-grown horses at the twenty-fifth. Later came the pancration or wrestling and boxing combined. Subsequent additions to the program were the foot races for men in armor, which was introduced at the sixty-fifth Olympiad, and the competition of heralds and trumpeters, which came in with the ninety-sixth celebration.

The other items which came afterward were mainly developments of some of these, in which the extension of a whole series of contests for boys was included. Thus there were chariot races with mules, with mares, with foals, both pair and four-in-hand, and horse races for foals. Most of the adult exercises, like boxing and foot racing and the pentathlon, were thrown open to the boys, and by the 145th Olympiad—that is, in the year 196 B. C.—the program included twenty-four events and occupied about five days' time.

The poorest citizen could compete in the games, and the noblest and the lowest of the Hellenic race met side by side and were held to have honored each other by their rivalry, though the equestrian exercises were undoubtedly confined to those of the richer classes. It is notable that as years wore on

the games were held in Paris. Then in 1904 the Olympiad was held in St. Louis.

An Olympiad was planned for Rome in 1908, but some unexpected difficulties arose, causing it to go to London.

Athens celebrated the tenth anniversary of the modern revival of the games by a mammoth festival in 1906, two years before the London classic. The games held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1912, are fresh in the minds of a great many, although the world has suffered doubtless from its greatest period of strife since then. The Olympics of 1916, it will be remembered, had been planned for Berlin. We are not dependent upon historians to give us the cause for postponement until the present summer.

IT SEEMS quite befitting that the coming games should be held upon the reconstructed peaceful soil of the Belgians, who by courageous deeds are able to send out heralds calling together the flower of manhood from their allies. Queen Elizabeth and King Albert are going to present the wild olive branches with more pride and gratification than ever bestowed by rulers spoken of in the history of the Olympics. Before the summer passes scenes of the most dramatic touch will be written by the sportsmen of the world. We venture to say that 75 per cent of the American athletes sworn to faithful training for this great meet to be held

marathon was fired every person arose from his seat. They strained their gaze toward the street leading from over the Illisus. The cavalry dashed down the street, clearing the way for the tired runner. But sound ran faster than horse or man, and before the runner appeared to those in the stadium they had caught the cry, "It is a Greek; we win!"

A lady from Smyrna took off her jewels and sent them to Loues, the little shepherd boy from the Attican Hills. Others followed with showers of tokens for the victor. The host of people rolled the applause backward and forward. The hopes of the generous, hospitable Greeks were fulfilled.

Loues received the spontaneous ovation of his nation. The peasant of the village of Amarovi was the hero of Greece. He had saved his countrymen from the almost inevitable shame, that of not winning an event in the Olympiad. Dramatic tales soon reached the ears of the visiting scribes. It was said that Loues had told the starters at Marathon that he would win the race or die. Again a story was told that Loues had entered the marathon with the hope of gaining the recognition of high officials, who might release his brother from prison. This report was met by Loues's denial, stating that he knew the tradition of Grecian games, which meant nothing but honor to himself and kindred.

THE various Olympiads have had their pathetic sides and their amusing as well. A story is told of how the Hungarians almost created turmoil during the games held in Paris in 1900. Those who witnessed these events will never forget the scene that took place when the confusion of the Parisian bandmaster stirred the emotions of the Austria-Hungary adherents. The bandmaster was informed by the officials to signalize the nation winning each event by playing the national anthem of that country.

Enthusiasm ran high; the stadium almost bulged with humanity. At the Paris games of 1900 Americans were winning with annoying repetition to other nations. Kraenzlein, a product of the University of Pennsylvania, had won the sixty-meter sprint. His success was announced by the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner."

Jarvis, an American, won the 100 meters dash. This achievement was signaled by the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner." Tewkesbury, another son of Old Penn., captured the 200 meters event. This was made known to the multitude by a repetition of the "Star Spangled Banner." Long, also an American entry, romped home with premier honors in the 400 meters race. His victory was announced to the tune of the rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner."

George Orton, another entry, followed by faithful sons of the Red and Blue, finished first in the 2500 meters steeplechase. By this time America's national anthem was sharing the familiarity of the Marcellaise with the Parisian musicians. Kraenzlein figured in another victory; Baxter triumphed for Uncle Sam; Prinstein followed with like success. The "Star Spangled Banner" by this time was contagious to the vocal parts of the world. Before Ewry was through his performances the tune had been played three more times. Partisans of other national



The man picked to carry off pentathlon honors, which went to Jim Thorpe, the famous Indian, in 1912, is none other than a boy from Kansas farms. He is Everett Bradley, a student at the State University there.

Patrick McDonald, a New York policeman, whose strength won him a place in the 1912 Olympics at Stockholm, is again prepared to match his power of muscles with the world's best weight men.



The little town of West Chester, Pa., is sending Lawrence M. Shields, who attends State College, in hopes that he will capture the highest honors in the 1500-meter race.

AMERICA'S manhood today is preparing to attack the world in athletics. Almost every nation in the world is keyed up to perspiring pitch in advance of the coming Olympic games to be held this year at Antwerp.

These contests of speed, strength, skill and honor, in which our country has thus far done itself proud, are a modern revival of perhaps the oldest and most earnestly worshiped athletic festivals recorded in the great works of the world. For the series which opened on the little plain of Olympia, in Elis, 776 years before the Star of Bethlehem ushered in a new era, was a revival of athletic rites previously revived by Iphitus, king of Elis, in 884 B. C., and then said to have been practiced time out of mind. Therefore the date of the first of these festivals may be lost in the dawn of history.

Far different from the present purpose was that of the first Olympic games. They were religious rites, performed for the gratification of the Greek god Zeus, and they were surrounded by all the pomp and ceremony of that ancient system of belief which nourished civilization.

Throughout the 1174 years of their unbroken history they formed an expression of Hellenic religious piety and Hellenic pride of race—those two pillars upon which rested the power and progress of Greece.

Once every four years during these centuries, the flower of Grecian youth came together in the small state of Elis, on the western coast of the Peloponnesus, and there, on the sacred plain, dedicated its manhood to the Hellenic piety and bore witness to the strength of the blood that united Athens and Sparta with the distant dwellers in the Greek settlements along the coast of the Black Sea or the Gulf of Lyons.

The midsummer moon of each succeeding quadrennium beamed on this pilgrimage, and long before its full, heralds went forth throughout Greece to proclaim a truce, during which peace was obligatory between city and city and state and state—for these were a covetous folk and they quarreled much among themselves.

In order that the contestants in the games might proceed to Olympia without molestation or attack, however, a month of peace preceded each celebration. And during this month there journeyed to Elis the noblest

rite productions of Hellenic art, including the statue of Zeus by Phidias, that same from which he removed and weighed the gold in order to disprove the accusation that he had been guilty of speculation in his use of the precious metal.

Extreme care was taken to prevent the entrance of any competitors in the games which should by lack of character or piety profane the religious nature of the festival. The first qualification was that of pure Hellenic blood, but no youth who had been branded by his own state for any disgraceful offense or was known to have sinned against divine laws was allowed to compete. Lack of patriotism was also sufficient to exclude a competitor. Thus the horses of Hieron, of Syracuse, were excluded at the instance of Themistocles because he had failed to take part with his countrymen in resisting the Persian danger. The festival was dedicated absolutely to the manhood of the race. No woman might cross the river Alpheus, which bounded the plain on the

both sides, the peaceable man left rejoicing. It was half an hour later when he came back that way, and he was chagrined to find the whole community fighting, while from a distance were blowing many police whistles. Officers were rushing to the spot from all quarters.

"In the name of heaven!" demanded the peacekeeper of a bystander, "what is the matter now?"

"Well, sir," said the man, "the arbitrators are at work!"

Sure to Return

AN ENGLANDER tells of a merchant in a Vermont town whose goods did not very strongly substantiate his advertising claims. So he put out a new sign. He was pleased to observe that a great many persons stopped to read it. But soon he was puzzled and angered to notice that they all went on, laughing. There was nothing humorous about the sign, for it merely read:

If You Buy Here Once
You Will Come Again

The merchant went out in a casual sort of way and glanced at his sign to see what was the matter. Some one, no doubt a former customer, had added another line, and it now read:

If You Buy Here Once
You Will Come Again
To Bring It Back.

Opening the Chestnut Bur

Such Is Fame

THE secretary of a periodical published not far from New York city and noted for the literary favor of its editorial pages once received a letter from a subscriber asking for the address of George Meredith, the novelist. The secretary had a careful examination made of the long payroll of the company, but the search was in vain. A reply was, therefore, sent to the subscriber couched in this language:

"We are sorry that we are unable to give you the address of George Meredith, of our St. Louis office. Perhaps you can ascertain it from him."

Did His Best

THE Dad—"I don't know about lending you any more money. When I lent you two months ago you told me that you only wanted it for a little while."

The Boy—"Well, dad, I didn't keep it long."

Difficulties of Arbitration

"A PEACEABLE man of this town," says an official of a steel company, "came upon two lads fighting. He besought them in eloquent terms to settle their dispute by arbitration. 'Each of you,' he suggested kindly, 'select half a dozen friends to arbitrate.'"

"Then, having seen that the twelve arbi-



A. W. Richards is another veteran Olympic participant from this country. He will doubtless make his final try to win the international honors in the high jump event. Richards is a Cornell graduate.



One of the most consistent mile runners in America today is Jole Ray, who wears the insignia of the Illinois A. C., of Chicago. Middle Western sportsmen name him to uphold our country's name in the 1500-meter run.

women were allowed to enter their horses for the chariot races and were often triumphant, the first woman so distinguished being Cynisca, the sister of Agesilaus.

The winners had their rewards from the citizens of their own state or country, which frequently took the form of a triumphal progress. The reward of the Olympia itself was purely one of honor. The garland of wild olive was the winner's sole prize, but his statue was erected in the Altis, and his name given to the Olympiad in which he prevailed, a period of four years, by which the Hellenic historians came to measure their chronology; thus the first Olympiad was known as that of Corebus, the winner in 776 B. C., and from that year onward until 217 B. C. the winner of each of the contests every fourth year is recorded.

FOR the more modern revival of the Olympic games the world may be grateful to Baron Pierre de Coubertin, an eminent French sportsman. It was his idea of the possibility of applying to modern conditions and international sports the ideas and traditions of the ancient festivals, and he was the leading character in the formation of the Olympics of which we are so much concerned today.

As a result of the interest and enthusiasm thus created, the first Olympic games of modern times was held in Athens in midsummer of 1896. There in the very city which once exemplified the glory of Greece, after a lapse of 1502 years, the Olympiads were resumed and four years later



Captain B. G. D. Rudd, of the Oxford University team, will find more opposition from Americans in a scratch race. He will be an entry from South Africa in the Antwerp games.

in Antwerp have been "over there." Needless to say many are sleeping beneath the soil over which the time-honored marathon is to be run, from Brussels to Ghent. What a solemn thought it is. Unquestionably the games of 1920 will be as religious as recreative.

In speaking of the ancient marathon brings to mind an event that has never been short of a dramatic or marvelous incident to all Olympic games. Perhaps the most marvelous accomplishment in Olympiad history was written around Loues, the shepherd boy of the Attican Hills, who without special training saved the day and honor of entire Greece by winning the memorable marathon of 1896 for his countrymen.

FAMOUS writers tell us that the hopes of Greece winning at least one event were fading with the light that gradually disappeared from that great Athenian stadium of marble. Americans were sweeping victoriously through the majority of the events, and all had been completed save the marathon, which long race began on the plains from which the name was taken centuries before. When the signal gun for the

sections pleaded, but the pleadings were of no effect upon the foreign entrants.

IN COURSE of time a Hungarian by the name of Bauer finished with the greatest distance in the discus event. For your information it was only 118 feet, two and nine-tenths inches. The dormant emotions of the Hungarian attendance was awakened. Something terrible had reached their ears. The volume of protests echoed in the Champs Elysees. Persons housed in dingy places along the Montmartre were startled from their ignorance of what was going on kilometers away.

The picturesque scene had become violent in aspect. Men carrying their silk hats and waving canes in atmosphere filled with verbal combat, rushed from the stadium toward the field. Women joined in the attack leading frightened children. It was a terrible mistake on the part of the Parisian bandmaster. Probably from force of habit he replayed the "Star Spangled Banner" even though Bauer was victorious for the Hungarians. Thus go the stories of former Olympiads. What is in store for the athletes of the world this year?